THE TENTH DAY.

4th March, 1926.

The Assembly met again at 11-37 A. M., on Thursday, the 4th March, 1926.

167. Nairs and the Public Service.

MR. N. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Member, Neyyattinkara taluk, Group II*) said that the condition of the Nair community had never been so bad as in recent years during which it seemed to have ceased to be reckoned with for recruitment or promotion in the higher grades of the service. The Nairs were under the impression that the Government themselves contributed in a large measure to the exclusion of the Nairs from the service. No community would be ruined merely because it was excluded from the service; but there was the communal self-respect which the Nair community too could not afford to ignore. The Nairs had always been advocating the national cause and never cared to advocate their own with the result that they had to go to the wall. The community felt that, unless it pressed its claims, it would not have justice meted out to it. The Member referred to the nominations made to the Neyyattinkara Panchayat Court and said that no Nair was nominated until the Legislative Council Member for Neyyattinkara taluk represented the matter to the Government and public meetings were held to bring the injustice to notice. He requested therefore that the case of the community should not suffer for default. There should be fair play and nothing should stand in the way of meting out the barest justice to the community in the matter of representation to the public service.

DEWAN'S REPLY: I will reply to all the three representations on the same subject together.

168. Nairs and the Public Service.

MR. C. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Member, Tiruvalla taluk, Group II*) said that there was a feeling in the Nair community that the Government were not favourably inclined towards it. The community was numerically not inconsiderable, and was in the forefront in point of culture and intelligence, and by virtue of its interests in land and its past services to the Crown and the country it was entitled even to special consideration. It would not be wisdom or statesmanship to alienate the support and co-operation of such a community in the State.

Of a total of 36, there were only two Nairs as heads of departments. The extension of the term of office of Mr. Justice Chatfield, the appointment of Mrs. Lukose as the officer in charge of the Darbar Physician's duties, the extension of the term of office of Mr. Pitt, Commissioner of Police, the appointment of Mr. V. S. Subrahmanya Aiyar as Head Sirkar Vakil, of Mr. George as Chief Secretary, the confirmation of Mr. I. C. Chacko as the Director of Industries before the return from England of Mr. A. Gopala Menon to whom that place was to have been given, and the appointment of Mr. E. J. John as the Principal of the Law College, were instanced to show that the Nairs were excluded from the Government service not as a result of accident, but of a deliberate design. There were also other instances of injustice. The pay of the Professor's post in the college was reduced as soon as a Nair with high English qualifications was to be appointed as a Professor. A first grade clerk in the Secretariat on Rs. 115 was given, without any recommendation from his official superiors, the maximum of Rs. 150 in another post and from there he was taken on Rs. 200 to Rs.250 overlooking the claims of several senior Nair officers. Recently, he was appointed to a place to which he could have been appointed eight months before. The claims of a Brahmin Superintendent in the Secretariat with six years more to his credit were

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superseded and a Christian Superintendent was appointed as Assistant Secretary. Even when there were permanent vacancies in the Physics department in the Science College, the son of a distinguished Travancore Nair official failed to get a place though he had secured high distinctions in the London University. A grandson of a Travancore Maha Raja had to wait for months before he got an Headmaster's place or an Acting Assistant Professor's place in the College, when third class M. A.'s automatically rose to the position of Professors. It was feared that the claims of the present Logic Tutor in the College of Arts would be superseded by appointing a Christian, a near relation of two Secretariat officers, as the Assistant Professor. While Nair officers deputed to Europe and Nair youths trained in Europe at their own expense had to wait indefinitely for months together to get promotions and appointments, a Tutor in Mathematics who was granted study leave for the study of subjects which had no connection with his work in the college found himself provided, within a week of his return, with an Assistant Professor's place newly created for him. Was it only by chance, the Member asked, that there was no Nair officer holding an honorary post to which an honorarium was attached? The recommendation made by the Administrative Board, Medical Services, to appoint another grandson of the same Maha Raja in the Medical Department was being delayed. The rumour was persistent that a Christian was going to be appointed as the Superintendent of Archaeology. The Member doubted that, in the proposal to revise the principles of gradation among Professors, there lurked some motive to deprive some Nair Professor of his seniority. Of the 21 Headmasters of departmental English High Schools, five were vacant and of these three were caused by the retirement of Nair Headmasters. These vacancies at least should be filled by Nairs. Was there any method, the Member asked, in the deliberate transfer of high Nair officials from the capital to the mofussil? Again, was it by an accident that prosecution was started first against the *Jenmabhumi*? Some sinister motive lurked behind the rumoured transfer of the Mannar *pakuthi* to the Mavelikara taluk for purposes of Legislative Council election. All these instances, he said, proved that the Government were antagonistic to the Nairs.

The Nair Members of the Council had all along been sacrificing the interests of their community to the wider interests of the State in a spirit of patriotism. What they now sought for was only a recognition of their just claims to appointments in the State service. In the process of Christianisation now going on in the service there should be no supersession of the Nairs. To safeguard the interests of the community and to set at rest the growing communal ill-feeling, a well-defined and equitable policy of representation to the public service should be laid down.

The evil was not confined to higher appointments only. Even certain heads of departments put in men belonging to their own communities when vacancies arose. The remedy for this state of affairs lay in the publication in the *Government Gazette* of all appointments, promotions, etc.

A clash between the Hindus and Christians was impending. The article in the *Jenmabhumi* and the *Keraladasan*, the *Paurasamatvavada* conference held at Kottayam, the *Hindu Sabha*, and Nair conferences held in many parts of the State, the conversions and reconversions in Trivandrum and other places were the unmistakable signs of an upheaval which the policy of the Government in the matter of appointments accelerated. It was therefore necessary that the Government should wake up early enough and appease the Nair community by resorting to an impartial and definite principle.

169. Nairs and the Public Service.

MR. MATEVA KURUP NARAYANA KURUP (*Member, Chirayinkil taluk, Group II*) said that a perusal of the list of subjects for the past sessions of the Assembly would show that the Nair Members never made any representation for the promotion of the interests of their own community. It was not because they had no grievances that way, but because they realised their responsibility to their constituents who belonged to more than one community. But, on the other hand, as a result of the representations made in season and out of season by Members of

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